(b) whether the Federation in its first meeting, the pricing aspects of the Industry was reportedly discussed and if so, whether this amount to attempt on caetherelisation detrimental to the interests of air travellers; and

(c) whether the Competition Commission of India has raised concerns over the formation of such a federation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), while some airlines raised the issue of high input cost and its resultant impact on yields/tariffs, no decision on pricing was taken in its first meeting.

(c) the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had drawn the attention of this Ministry to the section/provisions of Competition Act, 2002 which prohibit anti-competitive agreements. The concerned section of the Act are however yet to be brought into force. Meanwhile, the view of the CCI have been communicated to the Chairman of the Federation of Airlines.

Setting up of aviation grid

575. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Aviation Grid to ensure infrastructure development in the country in view of the boom in aviation industry;

(b) if so, the details of its constitution and precise functions;

(c) the steps so far taken in this regard; and

(d) the immediate plan in hand for the grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, Government wishes to encourage the use of all available infrastructure in the country whether it be airfields which are not operational presently as well as the airfields owned by State Governments of Ministry of Defence. A policy to promote greenfield airports is already in place. This will lead to better connectivity to most parts of the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.